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New York, 30 June-25 July 2008
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

# Annotated provisional agenda

**The present document contains the provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2008 (section I) and the annotations to the provisional agenda (section II).**

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# I. Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda of the Economic and Social Council for its substantive session of 2008 has been drawn up on the basis of the list of items approved by the Council at its organizational session for 2008 (Council decision 2008/204).

## Provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2008

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

**High-level segment**

2. High-level segment:

   (a) High-level policy dialogue with international financial and trade institutions on current developments in the world economy;

   (b) Development Cooperation Forum;

   (c) Annual ministerial review:

   Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development;

   (d) Thematic discussion:

   Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development, taking into account current challenges.

**Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment**

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

   (a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council;

   (b) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme.

**Coordination segment**

4. The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2007 of the Council.

**Humanitarian affairs segment**

5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

**General segment**

6. **Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits:**

   (a) **Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development;**

   (b) **Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.**

7. **Coordination, programme and other questions:**

   (a) **Reports of coordination bodies;**

   (b) **Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011;**

   (c) **International cooperation in the field of informatics;**

   (d) **Long-term programme of support for Haiti;**

   (e) **Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system;**

   (f) **Ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict;**

   (g) **Tobacco or health.**

8. **Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B and 60/265, including 61/16.**

9. **Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.**

10. **Regional cooperation.**

11. **Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan.**

12. **Non-governmental organizations.**

13. **Economic and environmental questions:**

   (a) **Sustainable development;**

   (b) **Science and technology for development;**

   (c) **Statistics;**

   (d) **Human settlements;**

   (e) **Environment;**

   (f) **Population and development;**

   (g) **Public administration and development;**

   (h) **International cooperation in tax matters;**

   (i) **Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions;**

   (j) **Cartography;**

   (k) **Women and development.**

14. Social and human rights questions:

(a) Advancement of women;

(b) Social development;

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice;

(d) Narcotic drugs;

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(f) Comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

(g) Human rights;

(h) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;

(i) Genetic privacy and non-discrimination.

15. United Nations research and training institutes.

# II. Annotations

## 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

At its organizational session for 2008, the Council approved the provisional agenda for its substantive session (Council decision 2008/204).

At its substantive session of 2007, the Council decided to postpone further consideration of the application of the intergovernmental organization International Emergency Management Organization for observer status with the Council (Council decision 2007/260).

**Documentation**

Letter dated 5 June 2006 from the Secretary-General of the International Emergency Management Organization addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council (E/2006/87)

## A. High-level segment

## 2. High-level segment:

### (a) High-level policy dialogue with international financial and trade institutions on current developments in the world economy

In accordance with General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 61/16, the Council will hold a high-level policy dialogue with the executive heads of international financial and trade institutions during its high-level segment.

### (b) Development Cooperation Forum

In paragraph 155 (b) of its resolution entitled "2005 World Summit Outcome" (resolution 60/1), the General Assembly mandated the Council to hold a biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum to review trends in international

development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing, promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners and strengthen the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations.

In paragraph 5 of its resolution 61/16, the General Assembly further requested the Council to consider launching the Forum during the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2007 and to meet thereafter in New York, starting in 2008. Accordingly, the Development Cooperation Forum was launched in Geneva in July 2007 and will hold its first biennial meeting in New York in 2008.

The Development Cooperation Forum will consider an analytical background report prepared by the Secretary-General on a review of trends and progress in international development cooperation (General Assembly resolution 61/16, para. 7).

**(c) Annual ministerial review:**

**Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development**

The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development for the annual ministerial review (Council decision 2007/272), pursuant to paragraph 155 of General Assembly resolution 60/1, entitled "2005 World Summit Outcome", and paragraph 8 of Assembly resolution 61/16, on strengthening of the Council. The report will incorporate inputs from a number of relevant United Nations entities and draw upon the outcome of the global preparatory meeting of the Council, held on 6 March 2008. The report will also provide policy recommendations for consideration by the Council.

In addition, the Council will have before it the *World Economic and Social Survey 2008*, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 118 (II) and 52/180 and Council resolution 1983/50, and the relevant part of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its tenth session (Council resolution 1998/46).

The Council will also have before it the relevant part of the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (Council decision 2004/323).

**(d) Thematic discussion:**

**Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development, taking into account current challenges**

Pursuant to paragraphs 155 and 156 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/16, decided that the Council should continue to promote global dialogue, inter alia, through strengthening existing arrangements, including a thematic discussion on a theme from economic, social and related fields to be decided by the Council and informed by a report of the Secretary-General.

Pursuant to Council decision 2008/208, the Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the theme for the thematic discussion at its substantive session of 2008, entitled "Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development, taking

into account current challenges". By adopting this theme, the Council also intends to review progress in the implementation of the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2003. The report will incorporate relevant inputs from a number of United Nations entities with the aim of providing an overview of the efforts to implement the 2003 ministerial declaration and of highlighting key challenges that have emerged since the adoption of the declaration. The report will also provide policy recommendations for consideration by the Council.

The Council will also have before it a note by the Secretary-General on the thematic discussion of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2009.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on trends and progress in international development cooperation

Report of the Secretary-General on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development (E/2008/12)

Report of the Secretary-General for the thematic discussion

Note by the Secretary-General on the thematic discussion of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council for 2009: selection of a theme

*World Economic and Social Survey 2008* (E/2008/50/Rev.1)

Relevant part of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its tenth session

Relevant part of the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

## B. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

### 3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

#### (a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council

At its sixty-second session, in its resolution 62/208, the General Assembly:

- In paragraph 28, requested the Secretary-General to continue to broaden and improve the coverage, timeliness, reliability, quality and comparability of system-wide financial data, definitions and classifications for the financial reporting of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. It also requested the Secretary-General to build a comprehensive, sustainable and consistent financial data and reporting system for the operational activities for development of all the relevant organizations and entities of the United Nations system. The Assembly further asked the Secretary-General to include in the report to be submitted to the Council in 2008 a concise assessment of progress made and a description of planned activities.

- In paragraph 93, requested the Secretary-General to report on an annual basis to the Council at its substantive session on the functioning of the resident coordinator system, including costs and benefits.
- In paragraph 112, requested the executive boards and governing bodies of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to assess the progress achieved, including costs and benefits, in the area of simplification and harmonization of the United Nations development system at the global, regional and country levels, analyse the potential impacts on development programming and report to the Council at its substantive session on an annual basis.
- In paragraph 141, requested the Secretary-General, after consultation with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to submit a report to the Council, at its substantive session of 2008, on an appropriate management process, containing clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time frames for the full implementation of resolution 62/208, that defined results to be achieved through implementation of the resolution in a format that would allow for adequate monitoring and evaluation of the results, and interdepartmental and inter-agency measures that needed to be set in motion, for the implementation of the resolution.
- In paragraph 122 of the same resolution, the General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council, at its substantive session of 2008, a programme of work for the full implementation of the action called for by the Assembly under section C of the resolution, on transaction costs and efficiency, to be completed before the end of 2010, including a specific, measurable, achievable and time-bound results framework, benchmarks, responsibilities and provisions to phase out redundant rules and procedures, as well as a timetable to monitor the progress made towards meeting those targets.

At its substantive session of 1998, the Council invited the Secretary-General to arrange for the submission by the executive heads of the United Nations funds and programmes, in consultation with the United Nations Development Group, to the Council at its annual substantive session, of a concise consolidated list of issues that were central to the improved coordination of operational activities and on which the funds and programmes sought consideration by and guidance from the Council, in particular in regard to the triennial policy review, and to include in the list recommendations whenever possible (Council resolution 1998/27, para. 4).

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development of the United Nations system[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the functioning of the resident coordinator system

Report of the Secretary-General on the management process for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

[1] Submitted to the General Assembly through the Council.

Consolidated list of issues related to the coordination of operational activities (E/2008/CRP.1)

Conference room paper on actions taken by the Executive Boards and Governing Bodies of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the area of simplifications and harmonization of the United Nations development system

**(b) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme**

The Council will also have before it the annual reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme.

The Council requested the funds and programmes, through their executive boards, to include in their annual reports to the Council: (a) a section outlining measures taken in the implementation of the provisions of the triennial policy review of operational activities; and (b) a section on the activities and measures undertaken within the designated theme of the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment (Council resolution 1994/33).

The reports include a thorough analysis of problems encountered and lessons learned, with emphasis on issues arising from the implementation of the Secretary-General's reform programme, the triennial comprehensive policy review and the follow-up to international conferences, so as to allow the Council to fulfil its coordinating role (General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 53/192 and Council resolution 1995/51).

**Documentation**

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its second regular session of 2007 and on its first regular session and its annual session of 2008

Joint annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its second regular session of 2007 (E/2007/34/Rev.1-E/ICEF/2007/7/Rev.1), its first regular session of 2008 (E/2008/34 (Part I)-E/ICEF/2008/7 (Part I)) and its annual session of 2008

Annual report to the Council of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme on its 2007 sessions (E/2008/36)

Annual report of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for 2007 (E/2008/14)

## C. Coordination segment

### 4. The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2007 of the Council

At its substantive session of 2007, the Council decided that the coordination segment of the substantive session of 2008 of the Council would focus on the role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Council of 2007 (Council decision 2007/261).

Also at its substantive session of 2007, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16, which should also adequately reflect the work of the functional commissions in 2008, including actions taken to follow up Council resolution 2007/29, for consideration by the Council at its substantive session of 2008.

At its sixty-second session, the General Assembly reaffirmed its request to the Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up to the Geneva and Tunis outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-third session, through the Council, a report for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as mandated by the Council in its resolution 2006/46, on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the Summit (General Assembly resolution 62/182).

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the theme of the coordination segment

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16 (Council resolution 2007/29) (see also item 8 and under chapeau of items 13 and 14)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

## D. Humanitarian affairs segment

### 5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

At its resumed organizational session for 2008, the Council decided that the theme of the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2008 would be "Building capabilities and capacities at all levels for timely humanitarian assistance, including disaster risk reduction".

[2] 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B and 60/265.

In its resolution 62/94, the General Assembly encouraged Member States to continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the Assembly and the Council on humanitarian issues, based on their respective mandates and taking into account comparative advantages and existing complementarities of the two bodies, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-third session, through the Council at its substantive session of 2008, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and to submit a report to the Assembly on the independent review of the Central Emergency Response Fund in 2008 (see also Council resolution 2007/3).

In accordance with Council resolution 1983/46, the Secretary-General orally apprises the Council annually on the status of the assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations[1]

## E. General segment

### 6. Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

#### (a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/230, requested the President of the Council to enhance the Council's interactions through regular exchanges with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on organizational matters related to the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, within the context of the preparations for the high-level meeting with these institutions (New York, 14 April 2008), bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 57/270 B and Council resolution 2003/47, and to report thereon to the Council (see also Council resolution 2007/30).

**Documentation**

Summary by the President of the Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development[1]

#### (b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

The Council, at its substantive session of 2007, in its resolution 2007/31, requested the Secretary-General to submit an analytical and results-oriented annual progress report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010. The report is submitted to the General Assembly, through the Council, in response to paragraph 111 of the Programme of Action (Assembly resolution 62/203 and Council decision 2001/320).

**Documentation**

**Annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[1]**

**7. Coordination, programme and other questions**

**(a) Reports of coordination bodies**

**The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination will submit an annual overview report to the Council (Council resolution 13 (III)), which will provide the Council with a summary of the work carried out by the Board machinery in 2007.**

**The report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-eighth session (New York, 9 June-3 July 2008) will include the Committee's views on its consideration of the report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.**

**Documentation**

**Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2007**

**Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-eighth session (A/63/16)**

**(b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011**

**In accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Secretary-General will circulate the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 covering activities in the economic, social and human rights fields. The Council will consider the relevant sections of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 (Council resolution 1988/77 and General Assembly resolution 58/269).**

**Documentation**

**Relevant sections of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 (see relevant fascicles of A/63/6)**

**(c) International cooperation in the field of informatics**

**At its substantive session of 2007, the Council requested the President of the Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources, the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council's resolutions on the item. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2008 on action taken to follow up the need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States, including the findings of the Working Group and an assessment of its work and mandate (Council resolution 2007/14).**

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the action taken to follow up the need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States, including the findings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics and an assessment of its work and mandate

**(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti**

At its substantive session of 2007, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group until the substantive session of the Council in 2008 and requested the Advisory Group to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Council at its substantive session of 2008. The Council also decided that the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group would be reviewed at its substantive session of 2008, with a view to considering whether to continue its mandate, based on the Council's consideration of the report and the situation then prevailing in Haiti (Council resolution 2007/13).

**Documentation**

Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

**(e) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system**

At its substantive session of 2007, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its substantive session of 2008 a detailed report on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Council resolution 2006/36 and on progress made in the implementation of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (Council resolutions 2006/9 and 2007/33).

At its sixty-second session, the General Assembly encouraged the Council to continue its efforts to ensure that gender mainstreaming is an integral part of its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, through, inter alia, implementation of its agreed conclusions 1997/2 and its resolution 2004/4, and welcomed the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the Council's substantive session of 2007, which, inter alia, reaffirmed that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all were essential to eradicating poverty and hunger. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the Assembly under the item entitled "Advancement of women", as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Council, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance implementation (General Assembly resolution 62/137) (see also under item 14 (a)).

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

**(f) Ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict**

At its substantive session of 2007, the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau until its substantive session of 2008, unless the Council decided on an earlier review of the mandate, and requested the Group to report to it, as appropriate (Council resolution 2007/15).

**Documentation**

Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau (E/2008/55)

**(g) Tobacco or health**

At its substantive session of 2006, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control to the Council at its substantive session of 2008 (Council decision 2006/248).

Also at its substantive session of 2006, the Council recommended that the General Assembly, at its sixty-first session, consider the implementation of a complete ban on smoking at all United Nations indoor premises, at Headquarters as well as at regional and country offices throughout the United Nations system, and the implementation of a complete ban on sales of tobacco products at all United Nations premises. The Council also recommended that the Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of Council resolution 2006/42, on smoke-free United Nations premises, to the Council at its substantive session of 2008, and decided to continue its consideration of the agenda item entitled "Tobacco or health" at its substantive session of 2008 (Council resolution 2006/42).

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control (E/2008/59)

**8. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B and 60/265, including 61/16**

At its substantive session of 2007, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16, which should also adequately reflect the work of the functional commissions in 2008, including actions taken to follow up Council resolution 2007/29, for consideration by the Council at its substantive session of 2008 (Council resolution 2007/29).

**Documentation**

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16 (Council resolution 2007/29) (see also items 4 and under chapeau of items 13 and 14)[1]

**9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations**

*Assistance to the Palestinian people.* At its sixty-third session, in 1977, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it annual reports on the question of assistance to the Palestinian people (Council resolution 2100 (LXIII)).

The General Assembly, in its resolution 62/93 on assistance to the Palestinian people, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-third session, through the Council, on the implementation of that resolution.

*Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.* The Council, at its substantive session of 2007, in its resolution 2007/25 on support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations, requested the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of resolution 2007/25, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 2008 (see also General Assembly resolution 62/114).

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people[1]

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (E/2008/47)

Report of the Secretary-General on support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

**10. Regional cooperation**

The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation and take the necessary action on the decisions and recommendations of the regional commissions contained therein. The report will bring to the attention of the Council any decisions or recommendations of the regional commissions that statutorily require its approval. A section of the report will deal with the following topic: "The regional dimension of the themes of the high-level segment for 2008" (Council decision 2008/209).

The Council will also have before it the summaries of the surveys of regional economic and social conditions prepared by the regional commissions, highlighting the main problems and prospects of those regions (Council decision 1979/1).

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/2008/15 and addenda)

Economic developments in the Economic Commission for Europe region, 2008 (E/2008/16)

Overview of the economic and social conditions in Africa 2008 (E/2008/17)

Summary of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2008* (E/2008/18)

Latin America and the Caribbean: economic situation and outlook, 2007-2008 (E/2008/19)

Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region 2007-2008 (E/2008/20)

**11. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan**

The Council, at its substantive session of 2007, in its resolution 2007/26, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, through the Council, a report on the implementation of that resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/63/74-E/2008/13)[1]

**12. Non-governmental organizations**

Pursuant to its resolutions 3 (II) and 1996/31, the Council will consider the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the work of its 2008 session (New York, 21-30 January, and 29 May-6 June 2008) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The dates of the 2008 session of the Committee and its provisional agenda were approved by the Council in its decision 2007/232.

**Documentation**

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2008 session (E/2008/32 (Parts I and II))

**13. Economic and environmental questions**

At its substantive session of 2007, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations

conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16, which should also adequately reflect the work of the functional commissions in 2008, including actions taken to follow up on its resolution 2007/29, for consideration by the Council at its substantive session of 2008 (Council resolution 2007/29).

**Documentation**

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16 (Council resolution 2007/29) (see also item 4 and under chapeau of items 13 and 14)[1]

**(a) Sustainable development**

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its sixteenth session (New York, 5-16 May 2008). The provisional agenda and documentation for the sixteenth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2007/235.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Committee for Development Policy on the work of its tenth session (New York, 17-20 March 2008).

**Documentation**

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its sixteenth session (E/2008/29)

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its tenth session (E/2008/33)

**(b) Science and technology for development**

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the work of its eleventh session (Geneva, 26-30 May 2008). The provisional agenda and documentation for the eleventh session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2007/240.

**Documentation**

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session (E/2008/31)

**(c) Statistics**

The Council will consider the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-ninth session (New York, 26-29 February 2008). The provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2007/236.

**Documentation**

Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-ninth session (E/2008/24)

**(d) Human settlements**

The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (Council decision 2007/249).

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

**(e) Environment**

The Council will have before it the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth special session (Monaco, 20-22 February 2008) (General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII), 53/242 and 62/195).

The Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme reports to the General Assembly through the Council (General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), sect. I, para. 3). The Governing Council meets in regular sessions every two years and in special sessions in alternate years (General Assembly resolution 53/242).

At its substantive session of 2007, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and relevant intergovernmental entities, to evaluate the continued usefulness for the Member States of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2008 (Council decision 2007/264).

**Documentation**

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth special session

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/63/76-E/2008/54)

**(f) Population and development**

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Population and Development on the work of its forty-first session (New York, 7-11 April 2008). The provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-first session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2007/237.

**Documentation**

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-first session (E/2008/25)

**(g) Public administration and development**

The Council will have before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its seventh session (New York, 14-18 April 2008). The provisional agenda and documentation for the seventh session of the Committee were approved by the Council in its resolution 2007/38.

**Documentation**

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its seventh session (E/2008/44)

**(h) International cooperation in tax matters**

The Council will have before it the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its third session (Geneva, 29 October-2 November 2007). The provisional agenda and documentation for the third session were approved by the Council in its resolution 2007/39.

**Documentation**

Report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its third session (E/2007/45)

**(i) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions**

At its substantive session of 2000, the Council, in its resolution 2000/32, reaffirmed the important role of the General Assembly, the Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in mobilizing and monitoring, as appropriate, the economic assistance efforts of the international community and the United Nations system to States confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council and, as appropriate, in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those States. The Council further decided to continue consideration of this question, under the item entitled "Economic and environmental questions", taking into account the relevant decisions of the Assembly and the Security Council (see also General Assembly resolution 59/45).

**Documentation**

*No request for advance documentation*

**(j) Cartography**

The Council will have before it the report of the ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York, 21-30 August 2007) and the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its twenty-fourth session (New York, 20 and 31 August 2007) (Council resolutions 715 A (XXVII) and 1314 (XLIV)).

**Documentation**

Report of the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, New York, 21-30 August 2007

Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its twenty-fourth session, New York, 20 and 31 August 2007

**(k) Women and development**

The Council will have before it relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-second session (New York, 25 February-7 March

and on 13 March 2008) (General Assembly resolution 42/178 and Council resolution 1987/24) (see also item 14 (a)).

**Documentation**

Relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-second session (E/2008/27)

**14. Social and human rights questions**

At its substantive session of 2007, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of relevant General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16, which should also adequately reflect the work of the functional commissions in 2008, including actions taken to follow up on its resolution 2007/29, for consideration by the Council at its substantive session of 2008.

**Documentation**

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16 (Council resolution 2007/29) (see also items 4 and 8 and under chapeau of item 13)[1]

**(a) Advancement of women**

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-second session (New York, 25 February-7 March and on 13 March 2008). The provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-second session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2007/239 (see also item 13 (k)).

The Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (see annotations on the report under item 7 (e)).

*Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex). Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women shall report annually on its activities to the Assembly through the Council and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States parties to the Convention.

The Council will have before it the report of the fifth session of the Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. The Institute functions under the authority of the Executive Board, which reports annually to the Council (Council resolutions 1998 (LX) and 2003/57).

The Council will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on future work to strengthen the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (Council resolution 2007/37).

**Documentation**

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-second session (E/2008/27)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General on future work to strengthen the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Executive Board of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its fifth session

**(b) Social development**

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-sixth session (New York, 6-15 February 2008). The provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-sixth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2007/258.

**Documentation**

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-sixth session (E/2008/26)

**(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice**

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventeenth session (Vienna, 14-18 April 2008). The provisional agenda and documentation for the seventeenth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2007/251.

**Documentation**

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventeenth session (E/2008/30)

**(d) Narcotic drugs**

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-first session (Vienna, 10-14 March 2008). The provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-first session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2007/242.

*Report of the International Narcotics Control Board.* In accordance with article 15, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, article 18, paragraph 1, of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances and article 23, paragraph 1, of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Board will report to the Council, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on its work for 2007.

**Documentation**

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-first session (E/2008/28)

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2007 (E/INCB/2007/1)

**(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

At its fifty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should make an annual oral report to the Council to keep it informed of the coordination aspects of the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and should continue the existing practice, as established in paragraph 11 of its statute (General Assembly resolution 428 (V), annex), of presenting an annual written report to the Assembly (General Assembly resolution 58/153).

**Documentation**

Oral report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**(f) Comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

In its resolution 62/220, the General Assembly decided that the Assembly, through its role in policy formulation, the Council, through its role in overall guidance and coordination, in accordance with their respective roles under the Charter of the United Nations and Assembly resolution 50/227 and the Human Rights Council should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental process for the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. In the same resolution, the Assembly reaffirmed that the Human Rights Council should continue to have a central role in the monitoring of the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action within the United Nations system and in advising the Assembly thereon.

**Documentation**

*No advance documentation has been requested*

**(g) Human rights**

The Council will have before it the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions (Geneva, 30 April-18 May and 5-23 November 2007) (Council resolutions 1988 (LX) and 1985/17).

The Council will also have before it the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 48/141).

The Council will have before it the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Committee submits to the General Assembly, through the Council, every two years, reports on its activities (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex, article 44, para. 5).[1]

At its sixty-second session, the General Assembly requested the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children to report

annually to the Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council and to ensure that the reporting contained relevant, accurate and objective information on violence against children, taking into account the views of Member States and observers, the outcome of the special sessions of the Assembly on children and the United Nations study on violence against children, bearing in mind existing mandates (General Assembly resolution 62/141).[1]

**Documentation**

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions (E/2008/22, Supplement No. 2)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children

**(h) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

The Council will have before it the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its seventh session (New York, 21 April-2 May 2008). The provisional agenda and documentation for the seventh session of the Forum were approved by the Council in its decision 2007/246.

**Documentation**

Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its seventh session (E/2008/43)

**(i) Genetic privacy and non-discrimination**

At its substantive session of 2007, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant intergovernmental entities, to recommend the most appropriate forum or forums for the consideration of the issue of genetic privacy and non-discrimination and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2008 (Council decision 2007/269).

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on genetic privacy and non-discrimination

**15. United Nations research and training institutes**

At its sixty-second session, the General Assembly decided to streamline the reporting arrangements of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research through: (a) consolidation of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the Institute; (b) submission of the new consolidated report of the Secretary-General to the Council rather than to the Assembly; and (c) establishment of a biennial reporting cycle starting from 2009. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 2008 a report on the implementation of Assembly resolution 62/210, including details on its

financial implications, and the status of contributions to and the financial situation of the Institute (General Assembly resolution 62/210).

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/210, including details on the financial implications, and the status of contributions to and the financial situation of the Institute